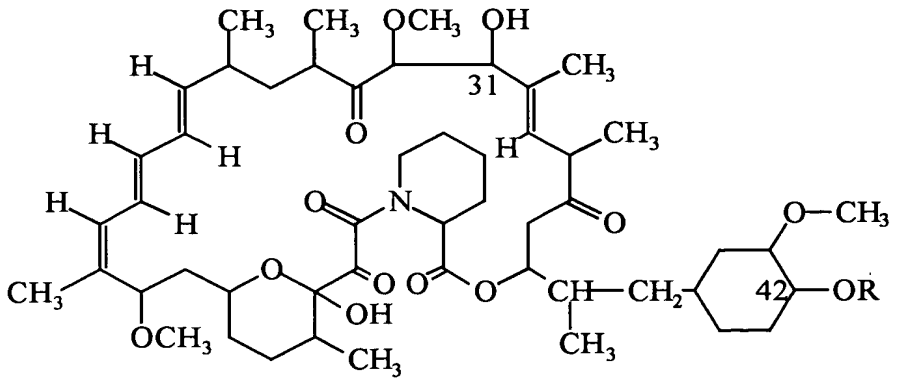
IT IS CLAIMED:

1. A compound of the form:



wherein R is R^a-O-R^b, where R^a is C_{2-6} alkylene and R^b is C_{1-5} alkyl, and where the number of carbon atoms in the sum of R^a and R^b is 7 or fewer.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R is of the form -$(CH_2)_n$–O–$(CH_2)_m$H, where *n* is from 2 to 6 and *m* is from 1 to 5.

3. The compound according to claim 2, wherein *n* is 2-5 and *m* is 1-4.

4. The compound according to claim 2, wherein *n* is 2 and *m* is 1 or 2.

5. The compound according to claim 2, wherein *n* is 2 and *m* is 1.

6. The compound according to claim 2, wherein *n* is 2 and *m* is 2.

7. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the number of carbon atoms in the sum of R^a and R^b is 6 or fewer.

8. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the number of carbon atoms in the sum of R^a and R^b is 5 or fewer.

9. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the number of carbon atoms in the sum of R^a and R^b is 4 or fewer.

10. A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 together with a carrier.

11. The composition according to claim 10, wherein said carrier is a pharmaceutical preparation having the form of an ointment or a gel.

12. The composition according to claim 10, wherein said carrier is comprised of polymer microparticles.

13. The composition according to claim 10, wherein said carrier is a pharmaceutical preparation having the form of a liquid, tablet, or suppository.

14. The composition according to claim 10 wherein said carrier is a stent.

15. The composition according to claim 14 wherein said stent is formed of metal or polymer.

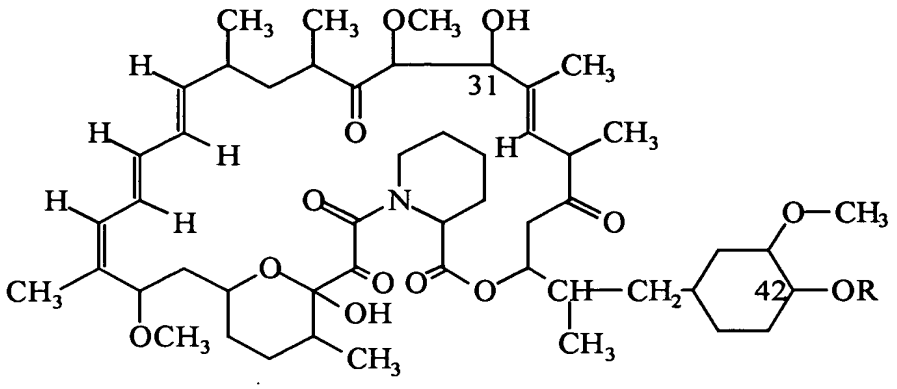
16. The composition according to claim 15 wherein said stent is formed of a biodegradable polymer.

17. The composition according to claim 15, wherein said stent is metal and said compound is carried directly on the surface of the stent.

18. The composition according to claim 15, where said compound is carried in a polymer layer in contact with said stent.

19. The composition according to claim 16, where said compound is carried in a polymer layer in contact with said stent.

20. A stent for use in treating restenosis, comprising
an expandable stent body; and
carried on said stent body for release therefrom at a controlled rate, a compound of the form



wherein R is R^a-O-R^b, where R^a is C_{2-6} alkylene and R^b is C_{1-5} alkyl, and where the number of carbon atoms in the sum of R^a and R^b is 7 or fewer.

21. The stent according to claim 20, wherein R is of the form -$(CH_2)_n$–O–$(CH_2)_m$H, where *n* is from 2 to 6 and *m* is from 1 to 5.

22. The stent according to claim 21, wherein *n* is 2-5 and *m* is 1-4.

23. The stent according to claim 21, wherein *n* is 2 and *m* is 1 or 2.

24. The stent according to claim 21, wherein *n* is 2 and *m* is 1.

25. The stent according to claim 20, wherein the number of carbon atoms in the sum of R^a and R^b is 6 or fewer.

26. The stent according to claim 20, wherein the number of carbon atoms in the sum of R^a and R^b is 5 or fewer.

27. The stent according to claim 20, wherein the number of carbon atoms in the sum of R^a and R^b is 4 or fewer.

28. The stent according to claim 20, wherein said stent body is comprised of metal or polymer.

29. The stent according to claim 28, wherein said stent body is comprised of a biodegradable polymer.

30. The stent according to claim 20, wherein said stent further includes a polymer layer in contact with said stent body and said compound incorporated into said polymer layer.

31. The stent according to claim 30, wherein said polymer layer is comprised of a biodegradable polymer.

32. The stent according to claim 30, further comprising a polymer underlayer disposed between the stent body and the polymer layer.

33. The stent according to claim 20, wherein said stent body has a surface, and wherein said surface is treated to enhance adhesion of said compound relative to a stent surface with no treatment.

34. The stent according to claim 33, wherein said stent surface is treated with a nitric acid solution.

35. The stent according to claim 33, wherein said stent surface is treated by a process selected from sand blasting, laser etching, and chemical etching.

36. The stent according to claim 20, wherein said compound is applied to the stent from a solution of the compound in an organic solvent.

37. The stent according to claim 36, where a membrane is applied over the compound to control bioavailability of the compound.

38. The stent according to claim 36, where a polymer underlayer is in contact with the stent, and the compound/polymer film is in contact with the polymer underlayer.

39. The stent according to claim 38, where the polymer underlayer is polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon) or poly(dichloro-para-xylylene) (Parylene).

40. The stent of claim 37, where the membrane is a polymer membrane.

41. The stent according to claim 36, wherein said solution is applied to the stent by a technique selected from the group consisting of brushing, spraying, dipping, and flowing.

42. The stent according to claim 36, wherein said compound forms a glassy layer on the stent.

43. The stent according to claim 36, wherein said solution is comprised of between about 2 and 60 % by weight compound, remainder solvent.

44. The stent according to claim 43, wherein said solvent is ethyl acetate.

45. A method of treating a condition responsive to treatment by rapamycin, comprising

administering a compound according to claim 1.

46. A method of treating restenosis, comprising

providing a stent according to claim 20.